

THE PURITAN MOVEMENT

of an omnipotent Providence, without whose fore-knowledge not a hammer could beat upon the forge, not a figure could be added to the ledger. But it is a strange school which does not teach more than one lesson; and the social reactions of Puritanism, trenchant, permanent and profound, are not to be summarized in the simple formula that it fostered individualism.

Weber, in a celebrated essay, expounded the thesis that Calvinism, in its English version, was the parent of capitalism, and Troeltsch, Schulze-Gaevernitz and Cunningham have lent to the same interpretation the weight of their considerable authority." But the heart of man holds mysteries of contradiction which live in vigorous incompatibility together. When the shrivelled tissues lie in our hand, the spiritual bond still eludes us.

In every human soul there is a socialist and an individualist, an authoritarian and a fanatic for liberty, as in each there is a Catholic and a Protestant.

The same is true of the mass movements in which men marshal themselves for common action. There was in Puritanism an element which was conservative and traditionalist, and an element which was revolutionary ; a collectivism which grasped at an iron discipline, and an individualism which spurned the savourless mess of human ordinances ; a sober prudence which would

garner the fruits of this world, and a divine
recklessness
which would make all things new. For long
nourished
together, their discords concealed, in the
furnace of the
Civil War they fell apart, and Presbyterian
and Independent, aristocrat and Leveller, politician
and merchant and Utopian, gazed with bewildered
eyes on the
strange monsters with whom they had
walked as friends.
Then the splendours and illusions
vanished ; the force
of common things prevailed ; the metal
cooled in the
mould ; and the Puritan spirit, shorn of its
splendours
and its illusions, settled finally into its
decent bed of
equable respectability. But each element in
its social